

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 MBFR-02 PM-07 NEA-06 PRS-01 H-01 L-02

MC-02 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 SPC-01 DRC-01 /080 W

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R 031330Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3313

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, PFOR, PARM

SUBJ: SENATE VOTES ON TROOP LEVELS, MBFR AND BURDEN-SHARING

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH OCTOBER 2, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE ASKED ME ABOUT THE RECENT SENATE VOTES ON U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO MBFR AND BURDEN-SHARING.

2. AS TO MBFR, HE WONDERED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO START NEGOTIATIONS OCTOBER 30 WITH THE MENACE OF SENATE WITHDRAWAL ACTION HANGING OVER OUR HEADS. SHOULD THE DATE BE POSTPONED IN THE U.S. VIEW? WHAT DID OTHER NATIONS THINK? WHAT IS THE CREDIBILITY TO THE ALLIES AND OUR ADVERSARIES OF THE ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION? WHAT LEVEL OF FORCES SHOULD WE NOW ASSUME FOR OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION? IS A CONSISTENT POLICY POSSIBLE?

3. CONCERNING BURDEN-SHARING, WHAT IS THE SHARE TO BE IF THERE IS LESS BURDEN ON THE US AS THE RESULT OF SENATE ACTION TO REDUCE U.S. TROOPS?  
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4. I EXPLAINED THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND THE SITUATION AS IT EXISTS, AND ANNOUNCED I HAD JUST SENT TO EACH OF THEM A LETTER EXPLAINING THE AMENDMENTS, AND WHERE WE STOOD WITH RESPECT TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. I ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION

REMAINED UNCHANGED.

5. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO POSE THESE QUESTIONS IN THE COUNCIL. I SAID THAT I WOULD POSE THEM TO WASHINGTON, BUT THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE ANSWERS WERE SELF-EVIDENT. HE SAID THESE WERE IMPORTANT POLITICAL MATTERS. HE SAID HE WAS SORRY TO HAVE TO ASK THEM BUT HE HOPED THEY WOULD DO SOME GOOD.

6. AFTER THE MEETING, TURKISH PERMREP ERALP SAID DE STAERCKE'S QUESTIONS WERE BEING ASKED IN CHANCERIES ALL OVER EUROPE. I SAID MAYBE IT IS WELL TO ASK THEM, BUT THAT IT STRUCK ME THAT THE ANSWERS WERE RATHER CLEAR -- NAMELY, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PUT THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS; THAT ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE IN THE U.S. WAS A MORE QUIET REDISTRIBUTION OF THE BURDEN, AND THAT WE NEED PROGRESS ON THAT. AND WE'VE KNOWN THERE WAS PRESSURE IN THE SENATE. WHAT WE'VE SEEN MOST RECENTLY IS A VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF THAT PRESSURE.  
RUMSFELD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 02 APR 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 OCT 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973NATO04682  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS, 12-31-79  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqceclw.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENATE VOTES ON TROOP LEVELS, MBFR AND BURDEN-SHARING  
**TAGS:** MCAF, PFOR, PARM  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005